

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6398

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12871

USOECN, EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, UK, RO, IT

SUBJECT: SOLIDEV CASE

REF: STATE 185326

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) OFFICER ANGELO PERSIANI TWICE ON AUGUST 8 SOLIDEV CASE. EMBOFF TELEPHONED PERSIANI MORNING OF AUGUST 8 TO AGAIN EXPRESS USG HOPE FOR AN EARLY SETTLEMENT OF SOLIDEV CASE AND, AT THE SAME TIME, TO REPEAT OUR POSITION ON ITALIAN INTEGRATED CIRCUITRY. PERSIANI ACCEPTED EMBOFF'S COMMENTS, BUT ADDED THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FORMER CASE HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TO MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AMBASSADOR MARIO MONDELLO. PERSIANI REVIEWED CAREFULLY OUR POSITION ON THE CIRCUITRY CASE AND SOUNDED PLEASED WITH EMBOFF'S PROMISE TO CONVEY MFA'S "STRONG CONCERN" THAT A NEW ITALIAN PROPOSAL WOULD UNDERGO THE SAME U.S.-INFLICTED DELAYS AS THE OTHER TWO.

2. PERSIANI TELEPHONED AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 8 TO EXPLAIN THAT GOI HAD ACCEPTED USG ADVICE ON INTEGRATED CIRCUITRY. HE ADDED THAT NEW PROPOSAL BASED ON THIS ADVICE WAS BEING
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FILED BUT NOTED AGAIN THE GOI CONCERN FOR SPEED AND EFFICIENCY IN PROCESSING NEW PROPOSAL. WHEN EMBOFF PROMISED TO PASS ALONG THIS CONCERN AND TO STRONGLY URGE AUTHORITIES IN WASHINGTON TO ACT ACCORDINGLY, PERSIANI GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THIS EFFORT WOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF AMBASSADOR MONDELLO.

3. BEFORE ENDING CONVERSATION, EMBOFF ASKED FOR PERSIANI'S ESTIMATE OF CHANCES OF OBTAINING AN EARLY SOLUTION TO THE SOLIDDEV CASE. PERSIANI EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS OBVIOUSLY SOMETHING THAT WOULD REQUIRE MORE THAN TWO OR THREE DAYS TIME TO SETTLE BUT SUGGESTED THAT A SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND. HIS STATEMENTS AT THIS MOMENT AND EARLIER, WHEN HE REMARKED ABOUT INFORMING MONDELLO OF OUR EFFORTS IN REGARD TO THE CIRCUITRY CASE, SUGGEST STRONGLY THAT THE GOI WILL ACT IN REGARD TO THE SOLIDDEV CASE ONLY WHEN GOI IS CONVINCED WE WILL NOT DELAY FURTHER THE INTEGRATED CIRCUITRY SALE TO ROMANIA. PERSIANI ADDED, IN REFERENCE TO THE QUESTION OF TIMELY COCOM RESPONSES TO MEMBER-DELEGATION PROPOSALS, THAT GOI ALSO DESIRES TO AVOID SUCH PROBLEMS IN THE FUTURE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE, AS SUGGESTED, A FINAL SOLUTION APPEARS DEPENDENT ON USG ACTION ELSEWHERE, REQUEST YOU PROVIDE ANY STATEMENT WHICH WE MAY PASS TO MONDELLO'S STAFF WHICH MIGHT CONVINCE THEM USG IS INDEED ACTING EXPEDITIOUSLY OVER THE NEW CIRCUITRY PROPOSAL. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SUCH INFORMATION ALONE WOULD SUFFICE TO OBTAIN MONDELLO'S DECISION IN OUR FAVOR.HOLMES

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